

STATINTL

# The Forgotten Man

By Ed Koterba



ALONG a major street behind the Iron Curtain, the people see a symbol that mocks Khrushchev's world-shaking denunciation of spying.

The street is in Prague, Czechoslovakia. On my visit there I learned that it was re-named "Rosenberg" by the communists as a tribute to the "honor and valor" of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, two of history's most treacherous spies.

The thoroughfare was thus titled after the couple was executed for turning over our atomic secrets to the Soviets. And now, suddenly, spying in Nikita Khrushchev's book has become, he tells the world, an act of war.

What the needs of the Rosenbergs may eventually cost in human lives, no one will know. Conversely, the assigned mission of Pilot Francis G. Powers was aimed to save our nation countless thousands, perhaps millions, of lives.

Yet in this turmoil of the past days, young Powers has, in a sense, become the forgotten man.

I lay awake thru the dawn hours wondering about him. I tried to picture myself in his shoes, but it was a vague image. Is he in solitary confinement? Does he have any idea—a bare inkling—of what his capture had wrought upon the world?

There must be others, like I, tossing and wondering about this fine looking young man whose fate may be death by a firing squad behind the Iron Curtain.

In the morning I went to the phone and called Mrs. William Hileman, and asked her just what has been crossing her mind about young Powers.

"It's strange that you ask me that question," she said, "for just a few minutes ago at breakfast I was sitting there trying to picture what Francis was having for breakfast on this day . . ."

Joyce Hileman is Francis Powers' younger sister. She's a striking brunet, and a mother. These have been days of mental torture for her, and for the other sisters—Jean, Joan, Janice and Jessie. Francis—or "Gary" as they sometimes call him—is their only brother.

Mrs. Hileman, who works in a Washington insurance office, keeps at her side at all times a portable electric radio to grasp at any news about her brother.

"You heard about Dad, I guess," Mrs. Hileman said. "He wants to exchange himself to the Russians for Francis. He's already applied for a passport."

Joyce said that if the Reds refuse him, she'd try to offer herself in her brother's place.

Meanwhile, as for young Powers and the events leading up to his capture, the outside world knows virtually nothing. Will we ever get the full true story?

The mission—arranged by higher-ups—may now appear to have been a blunder. But, then again, when and if the real story is known, there may be established a monument proud and tall in the name of Francis G. Powers.